

Message Text

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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 7065

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP PGOV PDIP AR
SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT VIDELA

REF: STATE 226556

1. EMBOFF HAD OCCASION TO MEET WITH DR. YOFRE SHORTLY AFTER LATTER'S RETURN FROM ROME. YOFRE'S RECAPITULATION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA CONCORDED SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE TIMETABLES (POINT 5, PARAGRAPH 7 REFTEL) YOFRE SAID THAT THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO WAS LAID OUT TENTATIVELY AT THE MEETING: A) BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR BIDS FOR THE YACYRETA POWER PROJECT, THE US WOULD MAKE AN ACCOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ITS DECISION REGARDING POSSIBLE FINANCING IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; B) SOMETIME IN OCTOBER (AFTER OCTOBER 1 BUT BEFORE THE OCTOBER 25 DEADLINE) THE GOA WOULD ANNOUNCE A VISIT TO ARGENTINA BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHT'S COMMISSION. (VIDELA REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION BEFORE OCTOBER 1.); C) THE US WOULD THEN ANNOUNCE THE INTENTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY TO VISIT ARGENTINA (YOFRE ESTIMATED THAT VAKY WOULD BE ABLE

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TO VISIT ARGENTINA DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER, ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAYNE SMITH.)

2. YOFRE STATED THAT THE GOA WANTED TO HAVE THE VAKY VISIT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE US AND THE GOA WERE MAKING POSITIVE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OVER THE

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THE GOA WANTED NO FURTHER US HUMAN RIGHTS "INSPECTION VISITS." IT PREFERRED, IF POSSIBLE, THAT VAKY VISIT ARGENTINA ALONE -- AND PARTICULARLY THAT HE NOT, AT THE SAME TIME, VISIT ANY OTHER LA COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE US CURRENTLY HAS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS -- IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT THAT THE VISIT WAS INTENDED TO DEAL WITH THE FULL BREADTH OF ARGENTINE-US RELATIONS AND NOT MERELY THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM ALONE. VAKY COULD MEET WITH POLITICAL PARTY AND TRADE UNION LEADERS IF HE SO WISHED. HOWEVER, GOA WOULD WANT TO HAVE THE VAKY MISSION OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION BEFORE CONFIRMING THE VISIT.

3. YOFRE ALSO SAID THAT COLONEL CERDA WAS STANDING BY IN NEW YORK AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS TO JOIN AMBASSADOR CASTRO IN HIS MEETING WITH VAKY IN WASHINGTON.

4. YOFRE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS BEING VERY PLEASED WITH THE ROME MEETING. HE SAID THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE US WANTED TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT US-ARGENTINE PROBLEMS AND, AS A RESULT, YOFRE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS.

5. SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO PARAGRAPH 7 REFTEL WILL BE CABLED FOLLOWING MY MEETING WITH GENERAL VIOLA THIS EVENING.

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